

Minutes of the Joint Meeting of East Greenwich

School Committee and Building Committee

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

East Greenwich High School Library

300 Avenger Drive

East Greenwich, RI 02818

The joint meeting of the East Greenwich School Committee and Building Committee was called to order by School Committee Chair Dr. Deidre Gifford and Building Committee Chair Mr. Jay Gowell.

School Committee members in attendance were: Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair; Mr. Robert Durant, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Susan Records; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mr. David Green, and Mr. Paul Martin. Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio was also present.

Building Committee members in attendance were: Mr. Jay Gowell; Mr. Jeff Stevens; Mrs. Mary Jane Jensen; Mrs. Sue Cienki; Mr. Vin Varrecchione; Mrs. Alexis Meyer; Mr. Wayne Pimentel; Mr. Will Yoder; Mrs. Tricia Colson; and Mr. Michael Gagne, Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters.

Town Council members in attendance were: Mr. Michael Isaacs, President; Mr. Henry Boezi, Vice President; and Mr. Mark Watkins Gee.

SBS representatives present were: Mr. Ken Romeo, Mr. Jonathan Winikur, and Mr. Sean Sullivan. Mr. Paul Scheiner from Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger was also present.

Mr. Gowell gave an overview of projects that have been recommended by the Building Committee noting the roofs at EGHS and Frenchtown have been approved by the School Committee and need Town Council approval. Competitive bidding and grants for Cole amounted to approximately \$10.1 million in savings. Mr. Gowell noted that due to enrollment projections, closing Meadowbrook is not an option. Recommended improvements to the Meadowbrook floor will cost approximately \$3.0 million and the roof \$1.0 million. RIDE previously allocated \$1.0 million for Meadowbrook repairs which will not cover the entire project.

Dr. Paul Scheiner of Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger (SGH) gave an overview of his company and noted they specialize in roofing & moisture issues, technology issues, and structuring engineering. His company renovates approximately 100 floors per year. SGH did a complete sampling and survey of Meadowbrook including the roof and floors with data collected from November until June. Dr. Scheiner discussed the roof caps, conduits, and the vinyl asbestos tiles discussing moisture and humidity issues. Condensation builds up on the floors in the classrooms. There was question whether the fans in the roof caps are operating in the wrong direction. Questions were also raised whether the installation of air conditioning could

help the condensation that builds up on the floors. Dr. Scheiner noted that loose floor tiles can become a trip hazard. His recommendation is to close the roof vents, remove the conduits, repair/seal the floors with epoxy, and install a new mechanical system.

There was discussion to remove the air tubes and close the roof vents. Mr. Durant questioned the financial benefits from doing two-thirds of the work rather than the whole project. Mr. Winikur noted the savings will not be significant. There was discussion regarding asbestos tile and whether they pose a health risk. Dr. Scheiner noted the best method is to either completely remove them or leave them as is-not disrupting the asbestos. There is an abatement program to remove asbestos tiles if that project is chosen.

Mr. Boezi questioned if the recommended project will mitigate mold in the building. Dr. Scheiner noted he can't give a technical answer but completing these projects will reduce the likelihood of mold appearing. Mr. Boezi also asked if the complete project is chosen can displaced Meadowbrook students be moved to Cole.

Mr. Winikur has been in contact with RIDE and noted the district can expect approximately 40% reimbursement (which is approximately \$1.6 million). The district will need to make a formal submission to RIDE once a plan is decided.

Mr. Durant noted the cost of maintaining the floors would be approximately \$15-\$25,000 per year if not included in the total renovation. Dr. Gifford and other members noted there are several other priority items in the district that need to be addressed including technology and the library media center at the EGHS. The committees discussed the option of fixing the roof, removing the conduits, and maintaining the floor to see whether there is improvement.

Mr. Gowell noted the options available:

- 1. Proceed with all recommended repairs (roof, floor, venting)**
- 2. Proceed with some of the repairs (floor or roof), but not all repairs**
- 3. Do nothing- maintain the floors as needed –plan to build a new school in future**

Mr. Gowell asked members of the Building Committee, School Committee, and Town Council to state their opinion of the recommended options (entire project, partial, etc.). Opinions were mixed with some members recommending the entire project and some partial solutions (i.e., only fix roof/venting, etc.)

Dr. Mercurio discussed the technology and library media recommendations and gave an overview of “current reality” and “proposed solutions” which will impact teaching and learning. Total infrastructure enhancements are approximately \$331, 300 and

classroom enhancements \$333,700 with a total project cost of \$665,000. Mrs. Records also stated the technology is a high priority need for the EGHS. There was also discussion regarding purchasing PCs and MACS. Mrs. Records and Mr. Gowell questioned the possibility of each student having either a laptop or I-Pad. Dr. Mercurio noted that each student needs storage space on the server. Dr. Gifford would like either Mr. Hemendinger or Mr. Thibodeau from the Technology Advisory Committee to be present at the January 18, 2011 School Committee meeting.

Mr. Gowell asked Building Committee members to vote on either option #1 – full project to repair the roof, floor, and venting system and option #2- partial project to repair the roof and venting system and only maintain the floor. The Building Committee vote was 6 to 4 with a majority voting for option #1- full project. The Building Committee recommends the full fix to the School Committee. The Building Committee's recommendation will be discussed at the January 18, 2011 School Committee meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Sommer and seconded by Mrs. Records, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY, SCHOOL COMMITTEE